

## **Spotlight on Education**

Voluntown Public Schools  
Voluntown, Connecticut  
May 5, 2016

**Dear Faculty, Staff, Parents, Community Members, and Students:**

### **School Security and Safety Committee**

An evacuation drill for the entire school is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2016. This practice will start with a fire drill, followed by an evacuation drill to the Baptist Church. This drill helps us practice our evacuation plan if we ever face a situation where the students are not allowed to go back into the school building. Some students will be transported by school bus while others will walk the distance with their teachers. The Voluntown Fire Department and the State Police will direct traffic.

### **2015-2016 School Calendar**

The projected last day of school for students is Tuesday, June 14, 2016, an early dismissal day. Eighth grade graduation has been approved for the evening of Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 7:00PM.

### **Transportation**

We are in the sixth year with six (6) 2010 77-passenger buses and two (2) 2009 28-passenger mini-buses. There is a significant increase in maintenance costs from normal age and “wear life”. The Board of Education has authorized trading-in our current fleet for eight 2017 vehicles and enter into a new five-year lease/purchase agreement.

### **School Readiness Council**

The School Readiness Council established a Wall Removal Building Committee to utilize \$95,000 in funding from a CT Office of Early Childhood grant. Al Jacunski was selected as the architect for this project to expand Mrs. Wyland’s Pre-school classroom by using space in an adjacent storage room. This will allow us to increase our Pre-school enrollment and hopefully obtain more state funding.

### **Building Committee – Roof Project**

This project was completed on time and under the projected budget. The Town’s estimated portion of the cost was \$440,000. We received an excellent bid price from Quality Roofing Services with very few change orders. The State Department of Education reimbursed the town \$279,158.16, resulting in a savings of \$160,841.84 to Voluntown.

### **Solar Panel Project**

We are in the process of determining the exact cost savings per month for KWH usage, the transmission, and the electricity charge. Since activation on 12/15/15 the system has produced 99,262 KWH.

### **Stairway Committee**

The State Bonding Commission on 1/29/16 approved a \$176,000 grant submitted by a Stairway Committee chaired by Lloyd VanLanen with representation from the Recreation Commission, YSB/LPC, and the Board of Education. We anticipate construction to begin within the next few months.

### **Board of Education 2016/17 Budget Preparation**

The Board of Education is in the process of finalizing the proposal for the 2016/17 budget. We are waiting for the State of Connecticut final decision about the amount of funds allocated to each town. Another Public Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, 5-12-16 at 7:00PM with a regular Board of Education meeting to follow. The Board will then approve a budget proposal and after this meeting, deliver it to the Town Clerk for public dissemination. A Town Meeting to vote on Town and Board of Education Budgets is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 7:00PM in the Voluntown Elementary School gymnasium.

Sincerely,

*Adam S. Burrows*

Adam S. Burrows  
Superintendent of Schools  
[aburrows@voluntownct.org](mailto:aburrows@voluntownct.org)  
860-376-9167